Alexander, W. D. Dec 30, 1919 (008)

October 20th, 1919

Professor W. W. Alexander,
University of Alberta.
Dear Professor Alexander:

It was very considerate of you to write to me explaining your remark, in which, according to the newspapers, you seem to take exception to a statement of mine with regard to the University of Toronto. From your explanation I can see that we were using the term "democratic" in different senses. You were thinking of the form of government of the University. I was thinking of the quality and character of the students.

Any one who knows the students of this University will realise that the vast multitude of the students come from simple homes, and that a very large proportion of them have to assist themselves through without any privilege or advantage whatever, and that their spirit is thoroughly democratic. Moreover, my constant endeavour has been, since coming to the University, to have the students exercise control over their discipline in so far as it is possible, and the Students' Administrative Council is happily becoming a very valuable self-governing institution.

Also the academic work of the University in its Faculties and Councils is thoroughly democratic. That has been the safeguard of the Faculty of Arts, as well as of the other Faculties, though it often leads to endless discussion, but it is on the whole the right way to proceed.

With kind regards, I am,
Yours sincerely,

President.